

# THE ALMA RECORD

VOL. XLII.—NO. 13

\$2.00 the year—5c the copy

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1920

TEN PAGES

WHOLE NUMBER 2153

## FAMOUS OPERA AT CHAUTAUQUA

Program For This Big Event  
Starting August 3 Is  
Given Out.

## SEVERAL GOOD LECTURES

Seven Days of Entertainment Will  
Be Filled With Fine  
Attractions.

The famous Gilbert and Sullivan light opera, "Pinafore," and the rollicking comedy success, "Nothing But the Truth," Louise Stallings, lyric mezzo-soprano; five premier musical comedies and seven great lectures on vital themes—these are notable attractions which are to appear here on the 1920 Redpath Chautauqua, which begins August 3. The entire seven days' program is replete with features of compelling interest and timeliness.

The Sibyl Sammis Singers and Miss Mary Cameron, pianist, will be the attraction on the first afternoon. The Sibyl Sammis Singers are a vocal quartet organized by Sibyl Sammis MacDermid of Chicago. Costume sketches are a feature of the program.

"Facing the Task" will be the subject of a lecture on the opening night by Dr. Henry E. Rempel, one of America's greatest dramatic orators. Permanent patriotism, community cooperation, industrial responsibility, thorough Americanism and the philosophy of inspiration are some of the great topics presented in this lecture.

On the second afternoon V. S. Watkins, widely known dramatic reader, will give one of the monologues which have gained for him such an enviable reputation.

"How to be Young at 70 or Old at 40" will be the subject of a great lecture by Dr. Carolyn E. Geisel, of Battle Creek, Mich. "An Apostle of Health" is the title often bestowed on Dr. Geisel. She is a magnetic, dynamic lecturer. "A perfect dynamo of power" and the "biggest little woman in the world" are some of the tributes accorded to her as a speaker.

The Emerson Williams Company, composed of Emerson Williams, baritone, and his wife, Jean MacNeil, contralto, will appear in concert preludes on the second afternoon and night. They feature popular songs in costume, both in duets and solo selections. Both Mr. Williams and Miss MacNeil are well known for their Edison phonograph records of Scotch songs.

The marvelous achievements of Luther Burbank, plant wizard, will be related on the third afternoon. Mr. Burbank is so busy with his plants that he is unable to leave them to tell about the things that he has accomplished but his co-worker and friend, Henry A. Adrian, educator and lecturer, has consented to tell of the wonders of Burbank.

Louise Stallings, lyric mezzo-soprano, assisted by the Mendelssohn Trio, will appear in recital on the third night. Louise Stallings is not only a notable artist but she is also a great favorite with Chautauqua audiences. Her appearance here is sure to be a distinct musical event.

The New York Opera Singers will be the attraction on the fourth afternoon. A mixed quartet and pianist compose this company which never fails to please.

Opie Read, well known novelist and journalist, on the fourth night will give his new lecture, "Human Nature and Politics," an address composed for the most part of experience stories that never before have been printed and never told before on the platform. "Human Nature and Politics" is a great lecture based on a long and understanding knowledge of human life as it is.

Hon. Chas. G. Jordan on the fifth afternoon will discuss one of the biggest problems in the world, "The Place of the Farm and the Farmer in Present-Day Life." Mr. Jordan is an unusually eloquent speaker.

The famous Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera, "Pinafore," will be presented with special lighting and scenic effects on the fifth night. Three seasons ago "The Mikado" was presented as an innovation on the Redpath patrons for the presentation of another Gilbert and Sullivan opera and the 1920 production of "Pinafore" comes as a result of these requests. An exceptionally strong cast of principals and a well selected chorus and orchestra make the Redpath "Pinafore" a splendid success.

Donald H. McGibbeny, novelist and traveler, comes with a broad background of experience to lecture, on the sixth afternoon, on "The Modern Unrest." This lecture is to a great extent a study of bolshevism and what it aims to accomplish.

"Nothing But the Truth," widely known comedy success, will be presented by a New York cast on the sixth night. As a novel by Frederick Isham, "Nothing But the Truth" was read by millions and later as a play it ran more than a season on Broadway. It is the ingenious, entertaining story of a young society idler who wagers that he can tell the absolute truth for one whole day.

The children's pageant, "The Good

Fairy Thrift," and a grand concert by Grobecker's Swiss Singers and Yodlers will be a feature of the seventh afternoon. Garbed in their native costumes the Yodlers sing the songs of their Swiss mountain home. "Human Efficiency" will be the lecture topic of Ralph Parlette on the last night. "Human Efficiency" has a vital message for the man or woman who wants to succeed in the world. Ralph Parlette is the author of the well known inspirational booklets, "It's Up To You," "Go South" and "Salvation of the Sinner." Over one thousand of the greatest corporations in the world have bought these booklets by the thousands to distribute among their workers. Ralph Parlette has lectured in five thousand cities and towns in the past twenty-five years. He is known wherever the Chautauqua is known. He is the editor of the Lyeum Magazine.

The Parlette lecture will be a great finale to a great program.

### COMING MONDAY

Members of the Alma Community Council are requested by County Chairman Crawford to be present at a meeting to be held in the offices of the county organization in the Wright Estate block Monday afternoon at 2:30, at which time Miss Williams of Chicago, will be present and give an address on the various phases of the work for which the council has been organized.

## TELEPHONE COMPANY HAVE STARTED WORK

### Gang of Men Busy Rebuilding Plant of Concern in this City.

The work of re-building the outside plant here of the Union Telephone Company is under way, and the superintendent of construction, who has charge of the fifteen men who are engaged in this work here, is in hopes that it will be completed on November 1, so that the wires may be cut over at that time. It may be from thirty to sixty days after that though before the work is completed.

The work promises to be a long and slow process, as new wires are to be strung all through the city, except for the underground cable service through the business district. In addition to this new telephone line will be installed all over the city, which will be smaller than those now in use, a telephone that will be adaptable to the common battery system which the Union Telephone Company is installing in Alma. Two new switchboards are to be installed over Clapp's hardware store at a cost of \$25,000.

The work is designed to bring the telephone service completely up to the needs of this rapidly growing community and to take care of the growth that the city may enjoy during the coming years, without overloading the system, as is now the case. The cost of the new work will be in the neighborhood of \$100,000, and may possibly exceed that sum. Some months ago \$95,000 was appropriated by the company for the work which was planned for Alma, but as this was upon estimates of some months ago it is very probable that the present cost will exceed the previous estimates.

The common battery system which the company will use in Alma very closely approaches the automatic system and will be a great improvement over the system that Alma has been using for years.

### MEETING HELD

Alma Community Council Held Meeting Monday.

On Monday a meeting of the Alma Community Council was held at the headquarters of the Gratiot County organization in the Wright Estate block, at which time matters pertaining to the proposed work here were taken up and officers elected.

John C. Chick was elected as chairman of the Alma Community Council, and Mrs. D. L. Johnson was elected as the vice chairman. Both are deeply interested in the proposed work, and should make valuable officials for the organization.

Matters pertaining to social features, playgrounds, recreation, etc., were taken up at the meeting, and it was decided to secure a representative to come to Alma to go over the proposition very carefully with the local council, after which a survey of the needs of Alma is to be made, that the best possible results may be obtained in the work.

### SPECIAL SERMONS

Rev. Edward E. Shouffer, the new pastor of the First Baptist church of this city, who came here from Paw Paw, a few weeks ago, is now preaching a series of Sunday morning sermons on "Little Journeys with Jesus." The services begin promptly at 10:00 a. m., and the church and the pastor extend a hearty welcome to the public to attend these meetings.

### FIRE THURSDAY

The Alma fire department was called to the plant of the Northern Wheel company in the eastern part of the city Thursday afternoon by a small blaze. Prompt response to the fire alarm made it possible to extinguish the blaze with only a very small loss.

## Frank W. Ruggles Sells Truck Company Holdings

Resigns as President and Director of Republic Motor Truck Company Inc., John N. Willys Succeeding Him.

### WILLYS CONTROLS CONCERN

No Announcements as to the  
Future Policy of Company  
Have Yet Been Made.

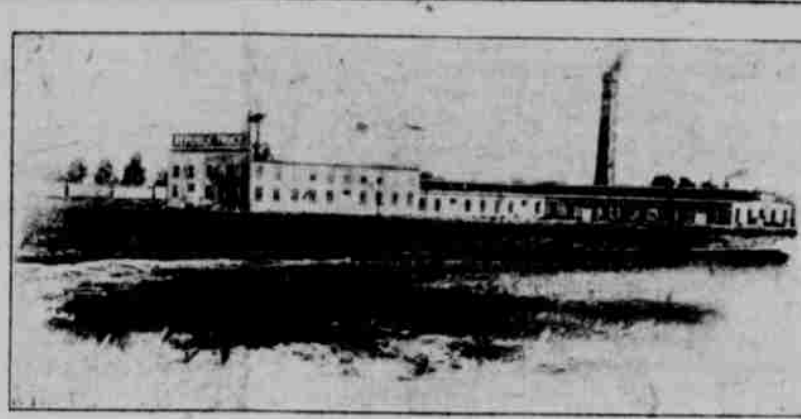
Rumors, which had been going the rounds, were given confirmation on Monday when it was announced by Ezra L. Smith, attorney for the Republic Motor Truck Company Inc., in an interview, that Frank W. Ruggles, president of the company since he succeeded Francis King in 1916, had resigned, and that John N. Willys of Toledo, who is president of the Willys-Overland, had been elected as president of the great Alma truck concern. Mr. Ruggles also resigned as a director of the company, it was given out.

Still more important, however, was the announcement that Mr. Ruggles, originator of Republic trucks, and one of moving spirit in the development of The Republic Motor Truck Company Inc., had disposed of large interests in the Alma company, the world's greatest exclusive truck factory, John N. Willys being the purchaser of the Ruggles' interests. While no announcement was made to this effect, it is probable that the purchase of the Ruggles' interests last week by Willys gives the Toledo man the control of the Alma company, as some months ago he became very heavily interested in The Republic Motor Truck Company Incorporated, through the purchase of large blocks of stock from former stockholders, such as Charles G. Rhodes, former secretary and treasurer, T. A. Burt and others.

There is now considerable speculation, of course, over the future policy of the company, and there promises to be some speculation for a short time at least, as Mr. Smith was unable at this time to make public the policy that will be followed in the future, other than to say that the company would probably adopt a policy of expansion. The manufacture of the famous Republic trucks will be continued of course.

It is understood that at some near future date Mr. Baxter, vice president of the company, is expected to be here from the east, and at that time it is probable that Mr. Baxter will make public the future policy of the company, insofar as it affects Alma and the surrounding country.

The fact that Mr. Ruggles had disposed of large holdings in the Republic Motor Truck Company Incorporated, which he had founded, and nursed carefully, causing it to grow from a struggling infantile concern, to the largest company of its kind in the world in the space of seven short years, came like a bomb out of the clear skies to Alma people.



Original Plant of the Republic

playing nearly two thousand people, as he had seemed an integral part of the company since its inception in July of 1913, having been during this time one of its largest stockholders, as well as the executive head of the concern for four years.

To Frank W. Ruggles must be given credit for a great part on the growth of the Republic Motor Truck Company Incorporated, which has had such a marvelous effect on the growth and rapid development of Alma, causing it to become the most rapidly growing city in the state of those which have not sapped their growth from larger and more fortunate nearby communities, such as been the case with the smaller communities around Detroit. Due to the Republic Alma has increased 173.6 per cent in ten years in population.

Mr. Ruggles came to Alma from the east shortly before the company was first organized as the Alma Truck Company, being a mechanic of comparatively small means. However, he had a vision of the future—saw a few years hence of his time—and saw the rapidly increasing favor with which motor trucks were meeting.

With his vision he also had ideas regarding the kind of truck that the world needed, and the Republic truck came into being. The model was developed. In July of 1913 the Alma Motor Truck company was organized with a capital of \$25,000, only a part of which was paid in. About thirty-five men were on the payroll when the company first started operations.

His faith was justified, as Republic trucks met with immediate favor, and success was assured.

In only a few short months it became necessary to double the capital of the company, then it jumped some months later to a quarter of a million dollars, and the name was changed to the Republic Motor Truck Company. Soon after the capital was again doubled, then jumped to a million dollars, and then beyond.

From a company employing thirty-five men seven years ago, the Republic Motor Truck Company Incorporated, has become a concern em-

and today stands out as the largest exclusive truck factory in the world. Its rapid development during this time must stand as one of the proud achievements of American business.

During the first year that the company was in business 54 trucks were manufactured and sold. In 1914 Republics began to demonstrate their popularity, 376 being sold. In 1915 the number had jumped to almost 2,000, and in 1916 the output was almost four times as great as that of the previous year. In 1917 the growth of the demand for trucks continued with this same rapidity.

During the war, the production of the commercial truck was patriotically curtailed, the company turning its attention to the production of hundreds of war trucks for the government, but it is now rapidly resuming its pre-war basis.

Of the original large stockholders of the company, Francis King, the first president of the concern, is the only one who now remains connected with the company, he having continued to retain his holdings in the company from the time of its formation. Like Mr. Ruggles, he has been an important factor in the development of the enterprise.

Such is the history of the Ruggles founded company of which Alma boasts, and which has made Alma one of the most bustling little cities of the state.

Just what Frank W. Ruggles will do in the future, is something that for the present at least, is left for the public to speculate upon. Not the slightest hint of what Mr. Ruggles expects to do in the future has crept into any announcements or interviews.

One thing is certain, however, and that is that the business men and others of the city, who have the welfare of Alma at heart, are entertaining an earnest hope that Mr. Ruggles will continue to reside in this city, and that he will not retire, but devote his seemingly untiring, energetic spirit in other business affairs in the community, for which he has done so much to build upon a firm foundation.

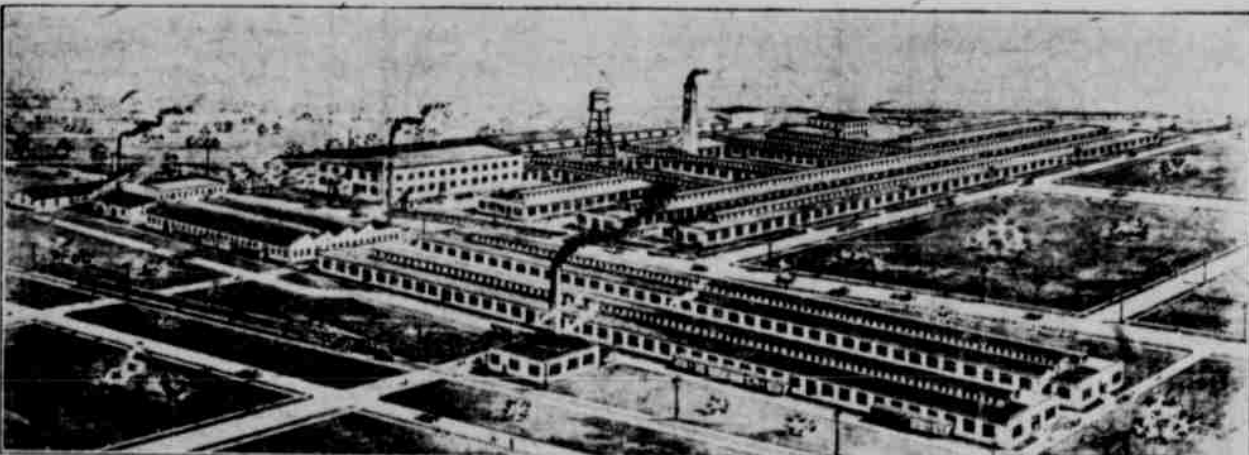


Photo shows remarkable development of Republic Factory

### MURPHY-DID-ITS

Famous Omaha Team Here For Two Games Next Week.

The Murphy-Did-Its, one of the fastest semi-professional teams west of the Mississippi river, will be an attraction in Alma for two days next week, appearing here Wednesday, June 30, and Thursday, July 1. This Omaha, Neb., aggregation holds the championship of greater Omaha, and will stack up very favorably with the finest teams that are to be found in the west. It is said to be a stronger team than the one which appeared here a year ago and defeated the Republics.

With a stronger aggregation than last year, the Truckers are expecting to defeat the Murphys here this year and it is certain that two real fast games are in prospect for the fans.

### RESIGNS POSITION

William Simpson, for the past three years superintendent of the Alma Plant of the Michigan Sugar company, has resigned his position, and will leave the local plant within the next few days. He has not fully determined just what he will do in the future, but is rather expecting to go into similar work in Ohio in the near future.

Say Pan-Dandy when you call for bread.—B-13-c

## SPLIT EVEN WITH DETROIT STARS

Hagerman Won Brilliant Pitching  
Duel With Holland  
in the Opener.

FIELDING WAS A FEATURE

"Rabbit" Oakes Featured Contests  
with Wonderful Catches in  
Left Field.

An even split was the best for the Republics in its two games here Thursday and Friday with the Detroit All-Stars, these clashes marking the first of the series for the Michigan championship. The first game was a highly brilliant pitchers' battle between Hagerman and Holland, which the Alma hurler won 2 to 0. The second game saw the Detroiters pound the Republics 5 to 2 victory.

The heavy hitting Detroit clan was pie for Hagerman, who was going in fine shape. Fourteen of the All-

Stars, including the heaviest hitters on the team, were struck out by "Rip," who allowed only five bingles during the entire game. The star heavier did not extend himself except when it was necessary, and such cases found him invincible. Holland also pitched a fine brand of ball, allowing just seven hits and striking out eight men. Three of the hits came in the eighth inning when the Republics counted both of their runs.

In the first inning the Stars got men on second and third with one down, but Hagerman turned them back by striking out P. Hill and Wesley, their heaviest hitters. In the second a strike-out finished the inning after Longware had tripled with two men out. Two hits were bunched in the fourth by the Stars, but Hill was nailed stealing third, and the next two men were struck out. From then on until a rally was attempted in the ninth the Detroiters were not dangerous. In the ninth Hewitt walked and Lyons' single put him on third, Lyons stole second. With second and third occupied and none out the Republic's chances looked none too rosy, but Hagerman again struck out P. Hill, Wesley grounded out and Gatedwood, batting for C. Hill, was the fourteenth victim to fan.

The Republics had several scoring (Continued on page four)

### AUTO RACES

Mt. Pleasant Celebration Will Feature Auto Races.

The famous Mt. Pleasant race track with its wide turns and long stretches is to be the scene of a battle of auto race stars Monday afternoon July 5, which will bring thousands of people to our city that day.

Desirous of keeping the people at home and attracting a great crowd here to celebrate the "4th," auto championships have been arranged which carry several thousand dollars in purses and have attracted a class and quantity of drivers never seen here before. For the first time in the history of the racing game in this section of the state, real championship races are to be held and they will carry with them the Michigan title. The races held at the Detroit fair grounds each year have not been held this season for several reasons and Mt. Pleasant, because of its track and the successful races of the last two years, has been accorded the honor.

That there will be no repetition of the accidents of the last two years arrangements have been made for a large body of uniformed men to police the track. They will not allow any by-standers on the fence, and the rules of racing will be strictly observed as a safeguard. This means stretching ropes on the turns so that no one can stand in the danger zone.

### ALMA'S LARGEST CLASS

#### FINISH HIGH SCHOOL

Fifty-Five Seniors Received  
Diplomas at Exercises on  
Thursday.

The thirty-second annual Alma high school commencement exercises were held last Thursday evening in the high school auditorium, the large room being packed to capacity for the exercises by relatives and friends of the graduates, fifty-five in number, who formed the largest class that ever finished its work at the local school.

The commencement address to the graduates was given by Professor Walter H. French, of the department of education at the Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing, on the subject, "American Education." It was a quite unusual address that brought out numerous sidelights on educational matters in this country, that were highly interesting to the large audience present.

Following the address J. W. Kelder, superintendent of the Alma public schools, presented the diplomas to the fifty-five graduates, members of the Class of 1920. A list of the graduates follows:

Robert Anspach, Vera Archer, Ida Archer, William Baker, Mary Barry, Margaret Barry, Fay Bartling, Mabel Bradford, Nina Church, Lulu Cooper, Ward Creech, Edward Dast, Grace Davis, Frances Dickinson, Margaret Drake, Nona Duffey, Frances Fowler, Carlyle Gallagher, Donald Gillett, Velma Godfrey, Ruth Grierson, Julia Hasbrook, Erma Hicks, Henry Holland, Margaret Holmes, Pearl Hooper, Bernice Hooper, Orville Ingersoll, Ina King, Marie Knudson, Vivian Kuhlman, Alice Leonard, Velmer Lyon, Myrtle McCorky, Foster Mitchell, Marguerite Moore, Frank Neal, Ruth Palmer, Earl Pembroke, Helen Platt, Jean Raum, Esther Rhodes, Naomi Scott, Fay Seibel, Mildred Smith, Jeannie Spaulding, Stanley Vliet, Amy White, Russell Whitman, Ruth Willet, Belle Williams, Floyd Wine, Velma Wyant, and Treva Zinn.

### CAMP MEETING

The Free Methodist tent and camp meeting, which commenced on June 18, and will continue until July 5, on Grove avenue, south of plant three of the Republic Motor Truck Company Inc., is meeting with very satisfactory results, and is enjoying a good attendance. H. A. Baldwin of Warren, Ohio, and Erwin Weidman, evangelists, are in charge of the services under the direction of Rev. B. F. High, district elder of the Ionia district, in which Alma is located.

Messrs. Kawaba of Japan, will be here on July 4, and speak at the services. Services are being held every evening at 8:00 o'clock, and every Sunday at 11:00 a. m.

### OBITUARY

Margaret Dunlap Fredrick was born at Greenock, Scotland, May 28, 1852, and died at her home on West Superior street, Alma, June 15, 1920. In 1869 she was united in marriage to Robert Fredrick, whose death occurred January 11, 1918. In 1888 she came to Alma, and since that time had made this city her home. She is survived by three daughters, Anna, Margaret and Mrs. J. O. Andrews, one son, Robert W., one son-in-law, J. O. Andrews, and three grandchildren, Nedra, Margaret and John Fredrick.

### FREE MOTION PICTURES

A rare treat for the young folks and the grown-ups is promised for this Friday by the Methodist Church free community motion picture entertainment. The picture is entitled, "The Magic Toy Maker." With this there will be a good comedy. Everybody is cordially invited. 3:00 p. m. and 8:15 p. m.

Best candies. DeLuxe—77-16c

### DEDICATION

#### HELD SUNDAY

Splendid Exercises Marked the  
Opening of a New Place  
of Worship.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD

Hundreds of People Attended Services at Christian Church on Sunday.

Sunday, June 20, was the biggest day in the history of the Christian Church of this city, the day marking the dedication of the handsome new place of worship at the corner of East Superior street and Court avenue, at which time all denominations of the city joined hands with members of the Christian Church in special dedicatory, and memorial exercises.

Numerous members of the Christian Church in other parts of the county also came to Alma Sunday to aid in making the day one long to be remembered by the Alma membership.

The beauty of the interior of the new place of worship, opened for the first time Sunday to the public, was a pleasing revelation to the hundreds of people, who attended the various services that were held during the day. The simplicity of the treatment of the interior only served to enhance its beauty.

Special services were held all during the day, beginning with the Bible school at 9:30 Sunday morning. Following a short regular session of the classes, the candle drill, conducted by the Rev. Geo. L. Shively of Lewiston, Illinois, was given. This beautiful service held the close attention of the many people who attended the service.

At 10:30 a. m. the regular morning service was held, a special sermon, "The Fundamentals of our Faith," being given by the Rev. Shively.

At noon a basket dinner was served in the church basement, which was attended by some hundreds of members of the church from the various parts of the city.

During the afternoon a special Union Memorial service of the various churches of Alma was held, special tribute being paid to the departed members of the different denominations of the city, who had stood out among the most active workers of the churches, by representatives of these organizations. An address, "The Old Days and the Old Ways," by Hon. William A. Bahlke, was one of the attractive features of this meeting.

The regular dedicatory exercises of the church were held Sunday evening, following the regular service. This service was opened by the presentation of the keys of the church, by W. G. Davis, chairman of the building committee, to A. M. Bartling, chairman of the official board of the church. Rev. Charles D. Poston, pastor of the church, led in the dedication vows. The service with a very fitting song, "The End of a Perfect Day."

### LEGION CARNIVAL

Wade & May Shows Here Next Week Under Legion Auspices.

Beginning on Monday, June 28, and continuing all during the balance of the week the well known Wade & May shows will appear in Alma under the auspices of the George W. Myers Post No. 132 American Legion and during the six days will furnish all kinds of fun, pleasure and amusement for both young and old.

The officials of the local legion post are bending every effort to make the affair a big success right from the start, and Commander Reese of the Legion post is expecting that it will prove to be the most successful affair of the kind ever held in Alma.

The Wade & May shows appeared in Alma last year and left a very favorable impression with the people of the city, and with a bigger carnival than ever are certain to again draw the hundreds of people that attended last year, and kept the grounds crowded from the beginning of the week to its end.

The Wade & May company has several interesting shows, and merry-go-rounds, Ferris wheel, whip, and other attractions that will draw their crowds.

### A REAL CATCH

William Burgess, Rodney Burgess, J. C. Gossett, Carl Walthers and Frank Cross returned the latter part of last week from a fishing trip near Mio, and brought back to Alma, what they believe is the finest string of trout ever brought into Alma. It consisted of 25 rainbows, none of which weighed as much as five pounds.

New uniforms for the Republic Trucks arrived this week, and will be worn for the first time in games when the Truckers invade Detroit this week end for the next two games for the state title with the Detroit All Stars. Across the front of the shirts are the words "Republic Trucks, Alma."

Buy the best. Buy DeLuxe—77-16c